

**STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT • 2ND DISTRICT**

# **Scott Press Release**

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7748 • Fax: 517-373-1387  
E-mail: senmscott@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/scott



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CONTACT: Senator Martha G. Scott  
517/373-7748

## **SEN. SCOTT FIGHTS TO PROTECT ARTISTS' RIGHTS**

**Scott: "...a victory for consumers and artists alike."**

**LANSING** - State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) today celebrated the Senate Judiciary Committee's passage of Senate Bill 1125, which prohibits imposter groups from performing as established musical groups when there are no original members from the group performing on stage. Testifying on behalf of the legislation were legendary performers Jon "Bowzer" Bauman, formerly of the music group Sha Na Na and Chairman of the Truth in Music Committee at the Vocal Group Hall of Fame; and Katherine Anderson Schaffner of the Marvelettes. Mary Wilson of the Supremes was unable to attend but provided the committee with written testimony. The bill is intended to curb identity theft and protect concert-goers and artists from imposter musical groups.

"I am honored and delighted to be able to play a part in protecting the rights of Michigan concert-goers against fraudulent performances," Sen. Scott said. "And I'm especially proud to be able to extend protections to our hometown musical legends."

Sen. Scott was originally approached by legendary Motown performer and friend Mary Wilson of the Supremes as a result of the group's involvement with the National Foundation of Women Legislators (NFWL), of which Scott is a long-time member. Wilson's mission was to raise awareness about the importance of legislation that prevents music groups from performing fraudulently. The legislation, which amends the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, includes exceptions for tribute bands or cases where at least one member of the group was a member of the original recording group and is legally entitled to the name.

"This issue is about identity theft," Mary Wilson said. "These recording groups have given the world their music, and now both the public and the artists are being deceived. The fake groups have stolen our histories."

Similar legislation has already passed in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, South Carolina, and North Dakota and is currently being introduced in New York, New Jersey, and several other states by NFWL legislators.

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